

credit card you should have. We don't trust you, we don't think you're smart enough to determine what kind of mortgage you should take out.

We don't trust you, we don't think you're smart enough to determine what kind of car loan you should have. We don't trust you and we don't think you're smart enough to determine what kind of checking account that you should have.

Now we're going to tell the American people we don't think you're smart enough or don't trust you to pick your own health care.

You know, the American people are getting kind of tired of the Democrats telling them that they don't trust them or they don't think they're smart enough.

Madam Speaker, the Republicans have introduced a financial reform that says to the American people: we think you're smart enough when have you the right information.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Rather than emulate the laissez faire strategy of the previous administration, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act less than a month after taking office. Now, just 5 months after its passage, some on the other side of the aisle are proclaiming it a failure.

In January 2009, before passage of the Recovery Act, the economy lost 741,000 jobs, foreclosures were at record highs, and the economic growth rate had hit negative 6.3 percent. Some \$10 trillion in wealth had been lost in the stock market.

The Recovery Act provided our States with vital funds, allowing thousands of teachers, law enforcement officials, and firefighters to stay on the job, to educate our children, and to protect our public. To call this a failure is putting rhetoric over people.

More than \$20 billion has been made available to fund over 6,000 shovel-ready transportation construction projects, over 2,500 of which are already under way.

The Recovery Act is not a cure-all to our economy's problems, but it has and will continue to make a difference for the better.

MYTH VERSUS REALITY ON HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Last night, President Obama held a prime time press conference in which he repeated many of the health care claims that are making their way around Capitol Hill. But what are the myths versus the realities?

Some even claim health care reform will not add to our deficit over the next decade. However, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has released its cost estimate on the House health care legislation, showing it will increase the Federal deficit by \$239 billion over the next 10 years.

Another claim is that no one will lose health insurance they have right now. This defies reality, Madam Speaker. According to an independent study, 114 million Americans will be forced out of their current health care coverage.

Madam Speaker, it's simple: Washington-run health care will mean more deficits, more debt, and more government interference in our lives.

AMERICAN RED CROSS REAL HERO AWARD

(Mr. TEAGUE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional constituent from my district, Mr. Billy Jack Miller of Elephant Butte, New Mexico, who was awarded the 2009 American Red Cross Real Hero Award.

This summer, Billy Jack was presented the Good Samaritan Award for rescuing an individual from drowning in Elephant Butte Lake, where he has operated a local fishing guide service for many years. The man he saved fell into the lake and became trapped between the dock and a boat.

The Good Samaritan Award honors outstanding individuals who exemplify the spirit of heroism and humanitarianism at a distinguished level and a commitment to improving the lives of others. Billy Jack embodies this achievement.

Over the years, working on the water, he has developed a knack for spotting fellow boaters in distress and is always there to lend a helping hand.

I'm proud on the occasion of this pre-eminent award to have the opportunity to commend the work of Billy Jack Miller, a great citizen of Elephant Butte, New Mexico. It is my privilege to honor Mr. Miller for his work and dedication.

CONSUMER FINANCE PROTECTION AGENCY

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I received a letter yesterday from a lady, an officer in a small community bank in Alabama. I wanted to share what she said with my colleagues.

She expresses her concerns that many community bankers are expressing about the legislation under consideration by the House Financial Services Committee to create a new government bureaucracy, otherwise known as the Consumer Finance Protection Agency.

Here's what she says: I strongly support consumer protections. In fact, my bank's competitive edge rests with our customers' implicit trust that we will deal with them fairly and honestly when they visit my bank with their best interests in mind. Don't take that ability away from me to meet their unique needs.

She points out that there are countless examples of local bankers offering nonstandard loan products to consumers and customers in an effort to meet their unique needs—not to victimize them, but to give them a product that fits their purpose.

Under the proposed protection agency, however, community bankers "would have a much harder time helping their customers. They'd have to go through all sorts of regulatory hurdles."

WE ALL WIN IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I have some excellent news for the people of northeast Wisconsin, people like Mike up in Marinette, Jenny in Appleton, and Jeff in Green Bay: access to affordable health care will be enacted this year by this Congress. After all, how can we continue the losing ways of the past, where discrimination against citizens due to preexisting conditions was allowed to take place.

You're going to hear arguments from one side and the other. But we stand on the side of the American people who understand this: There shall be no discrimination to any citizen due to preexisting medical conditions. After all, we don't discriminate on the basis of the color of your skin. What about the chemistry of your skin?

The bill that's moving forward in this House will guarantee other things as well. It will guarantee small businesses will be able to reduce their costs for health care and allow them to employ more people and stimulate our economy at the greatest time of need.

□ 1030

NEW MANDATES FOR ABORTION COVERAGE IN EVERY INSURANCE PLAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, everywhere I go people tell me they're worried about the direction our country is headed.

So far in this Congress, all we've seen are bailouts and government takeovers. We've taken over or nationalized huge sectors of our economy. We've nationalized the banking industry and the financial sector. We've nationalized the home mortgage industry. We've